



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

## News Release

For Immediate Release: February 24, 2023

---

COUNTY OF KAUA'I  
KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT  
MICHAEL GIBSON, CHIEF  
(808) 241-4980

---

### **KFD, OSB promotes 12 first responders at special ceremony Friday**

LĪHU'E – The Kaua'i Fire Department (KFD) and Ocean Safety Bureau (OSB) held a special ceremony Friday morning at the Līhu'e Civic Center to promote 12 first responders.

Kaua'i Fire Department Chief Michael Gibson addressed the 12 first responders in front of a crowd of family, friends, supporters, and dignitaries.

"We thank all of you who accepted the challenge to contribute to the future success of the Kaua'i Fire Department and Ocean Safety Bureau," said Fire Chief Michael Gibson. "Remember who you are, remember what this department stands for, and remember the people who came before you and ensure that you honor them as well."

Administrative Battalion Chief Jayson Pablo was the emcee in today's ceremony.

"It is my honor to present your family member, friend, companion, daughter, and sons for their promotions within the Kaua'i Fire Department and as newest additions with the Ocean Safety Bureau," said BC Pablo at Friday's ceremony.

"Mahalo to the Kaua'i Fire Department, Ocean Safety Bureau, and most importantly, the support of your families and friends," said Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami. "To our new first responders, thank you for being willing to protect our most precious resource, the residents and visitors of Kaua'i. To everyone promoted today, the hard work, sacrifice, and dedication your family members have given you

so you can be successful are priceless. The people of Kaua'i, County of Kaua'i, and myself are very thankful."

#### **Deputy Chief Roger Mills**

Deputy Chief Roger Mills was born and raised on Kaua'i, attended the Kamehameha Schools before graduating from the University of Hawai'i. He started his career with the Honolulu Fire Department before transferring home to the Kaua'i Fire Department. He would like to thank his family, friends, and former fire chiefs for all their support and encouragement throughout his career. Deputy Chief Mills started his promotional assignment on Oct. 1 in our Administrative Bureau under the command of Fire Chief Michael Gibson. Pinning Deputy Fire Chief Mills was his son, Colton.

#### **Battalion Chief Reid Tanita**

Battalion Chief Reid Tanita was born and raised on Kaua'i. He currently resides in 'Ele'ele with his wife Kathy and sons Robbie and Raiden. BC Tanita joined the Kaua'i Fire Department in 1997, with his last assignment as a Captain on Rescue 3. BC Tanita currently serves on the Helicopter Cadre, Ropes Cadre and Health and Wellness Committee. BC Tanita would like to thank his wife Kathy, sons Robbie and Raiden as well as his entire family for their love, understanding and support. He would like to also thank Chief Gibson, Deputy Chief Mills, the Battalion Chiefs, and his peers who he has had the honor and privilege to work with. Pinning Reid were his father, Robert; and his sons, Robbie and Raiden.

#### **Fire Captain Mathew Ballard**

Fire Captain Mathew Ballard was born in Gallup, New Mexico and raised in Northwest Montana. He moved to Kaua'i in 2009 and joined the Kaua'i Fire Department in 2010. He currently serves the department on the Pumping Operations Cadre, EMS Committee, Helicopter Training Cadre, and the Honor Guard. He would like to thank his family (his parents: Sue and Solomon Kanofo, his brother Justin) and friends for their support. His wife, Jennifer, pinned him today.

#### **Fire Captain Michael Imai Karratti**

Fire Captain Imai Karratti was born and raised in Kekaha on the Westside of Kaua'i. He joined the Fire Department in November 2005 with Recruit Class 17. His last assignment was at Station 7 in Waimea under the command of Captain Kinoshita. Imai is a member of the Rope Rescue Team, Vehicle Extrication, and Helicopter Operations Cadres. Imai would like to thank all his previous captains and crews, and those who shared their time, experience and knowledge with him. Mahalo nui to Captain Fujimoto, Captain Hosaka, Captain Kuwamura, Captain Langstaff, Captain Keahiolalo, and Captain Kinoshita. Mahalo nui to Chief Pablo, Chief Doo, Chief Edwards, Chief Ornellas, Chief Tanita, and Fire Chief Gibson for this opportunity. Imai thanks God for all his blessings and wants to thank his parents Steven and Phyllis Karratti for their examples and teachings. He would like to especially thank his Ohana, his wife Jessica and his children: Anuheia, Po'ohala, and Lu'ukai, da best gang in the world. Pinning Imai were his wife Jessica, and Parents Steven and Phyllis Karratti.

#### **Fire Captain Raymond Veeck**

Fire Captain Raymond Veeck was born and raised on Kaua'i. He currently resides in Kapa'a with his wife, Jennifer and daughter, Pualei. Raymond joined the Kaua'i Fire Department in 2007. Raymond would like to acknowledge his mentors and his coworkers that gave, and continue to give, advice, challenges, and friendship. Raymond would like to thank his wife and daughter, for their love and support. Pinning Firefighter Raymond Veeck was his wife, Jennifer.

#### **Firefighter III Cadin Crane**

Fire Fighter Cadin Crane was born in Denver, Colorado and grew up in Central California before moving to Kaua'i in 2001. He currently lives in Kalāheo with his wife Anna and their three boys Zion, Xander, and Yonyx. Fire Fighter Crane joined the Kaua'i Fire Department in 2009 with his last assignment at Station 8 under the command of Captain Dodd Apao. FF Crane serves on the CPR Cadre as the Program Director, as well as serving on the EMS Committee and Training Cadre. FF Crane would like to acknowledge his family, especially his wife and sons for their amazing love and support throughout his

career. FF Crane started his promotional assignment in the Kaua'i Fire Department Prevention Bureau under the command of Fire Captain Jeremie Makepa. Pinning Firefighter 3 Crane was his, Anna.

### **Firefighter II Shane Pope**

Fire Fighter Shane Pope was born and raised in Long Beach, California before moving to Kaua'i in 2004. Fire Fighter Pope joined the Kaua'i Fire Department in 2009. He would like to thank his wife, Bridget and his children, Juliana, Curren and Koi for their love and support.

### **Ocean Safety Bureau's New Officers**

#### **OSO I Micah Hanano**

Ocean Safety Officer I Micah Hanano was born and raised on Kaua'i, where he currently resides in Lihu'e. OSO Micah would like to acknowledge his family, neighbors, friends, and the whole Ocean Safety Bureau for all the love and support. OSO Micah will be working in the East district, or anywhere needed.

#### **SO I Sierra "Lei" Deguchi**

Ocean Safety Officer I Lei Deguchi was born and raised on Kaua'i. She currently resides in Puhi. OSO Lei would like to acknowledge her family & friends for all their love and support. Most importantly, she would like to thank the two female lifeguards Sanoë Hookano and Savannah Fliers, who have always taken the time to guide & train her to reach her goal of becoming a lifeguard on Kaua'i. They both have been & will continue to be a huge inspiration to her. OSO Lei will be working in the South/West district.

#### **OSO I Ian Baker**

Ocean Safety Officer I Ian Baker was born and raised on O'ahu. He currently resides in Princeville with his wife California, and daughters Matamae, Kiyo, and Mahana. OSO Ian would like to acknowledge his wife for her love and support, and the Ocean Safety Bureau 'ohana for their aloha. OSO Ian will be working on the North district.

#### **OSO I Kenui Topp**

Ocean Safety Officer I Kenui Topp was born in Koloa, Kaua'i and raised on the west side of the island. He currently resides in the Puna district with his dear 'ohana, mother Billi Smith, father Scott Topp, sister Hāla'i Pulaa, and daughter Mattea Topp. OSO Kenui Topp would like to acknowledge his grandfather Bill Smith for forever inspiring him to be more in the ocean as a waterman, his family for the unconditional love and support, and his daughter Mattea for being the light in his life. OSO Kenui will be working within the South/West district.

**OSO I Asher Encinas**

Ocean Safety Officer I Asher Encinas was born and raised in Southern California in Laguna Niguel. He currently resides in Kalāheo and will be working in the East District of Kaua'i's Ocean Safety Department.



###

